

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-16. Canceled.

17. (Currently Amended) An oil lubricated rolling bearing device, comprising:

an inner ring;

an outer ring;

a plurality of tapered rolling elements placed between the inner ring and the outer ring, wherein a number of the tapered rolling elements is z , wherein a mean diameter of the tapered rolling elements is DW , wherein a pitch circle diameter of the tapered rolling elements is dm , and wherein the device satisfies the following formula:

$$z \leq 0.85 / (DW / (\pi \cdot dm))$$

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18. (Previously Presented) The oil lubricated rolling bearing device as claimed in claim 17, further comprising a shield plate that is integrally formed on an oil inflow side of the inner ring, wherein the shield plate extends outward in a radial direction from the inner ring to partially block an oil inflow path formed between the inner and outer rings, and wherein a gap is always maintained between an end of the shield plate and the outer ring.

19. (Previously Presented) The oil lubricated rolling bearing device of claim 18, further comprising a retainer that keeps the tapered rolling elements evenly spaced around a circumference of the inner and outer rings, wherein an end of the retainer on the

oil inflow side extends inward in a radial direction, and wherein an outer diameter of the shield plate is larger than an inner diameter of the end of the retainer on the oil inflow side.

20. (Previously Presented) The oil lubricated rolling bearing device as claimed in claim 17, further comprising a shield plate that is integrally formed on an inflow side of the outer ring, wherein the shield plate extends inward from the outer ring in a radial direction to partially block an oil inflow path formed between the inner and outer rings, and wherein a gap is always maintained between an end of the shield plate and the inner ring.

21. (Previously Presented) The oil lubricated rolling bearing device of claim 20, further comprising a retainer that keeps the tapered rolling elements evenly spaced around a circumference of the inner and outer rings, wherein an end of the retainer on the oil inflow side extends inward in a radial direction, and wherein an inner diameter of the shield plate is smaller than an inner diameter of the end of the retainer on the oil inflow side.